



Sept. 5, 2018

Dear Chairman Vaupel:

My name is Dave Hiller and I serve as Executive Director of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, the state chapter of the nation's largest organization for police officers. Today, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5857, the STOP-MI bill, introduced by State Rep. Joe Bellino in April 2018. This bill will reduce teen opioid pilfering by modifying an outdated law and requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials.

Law enforcement's top priority is protecting the communities we serve. The opioid epidemic has ravaged communities across the state, and I have seen the disastrous impact it has had on Michigan families more times than I care to count. While law enforcement is tasked with protecting Michiganders from being affected by this epidemic, it's clear the laws related to opioid dispensing are ineffective and outdated.

There is an excess of opioids and other prescription drugs in communities across the state, which has made pilfering easier. The family medicine cabinet, not the street corner, is now the most common source for youth prescription drug misuse.

Pilfering is stealing a small number of pills hoping it will go undetected. For many, abuse starts in middle school. Each year, nearly 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse.

By modifying this nearly 50-year-old law and requiring locking prescription vials, HB 5857 will protect youth and teens from starting the cycle of abuse. Pilfering is one of the leading causes of youth opioid and prescription drug abuse. By reducing pilfering, this bill will save lives and prevent thousands of youth from initiating abuse.

Designed in 1970, the child-resistant prescription vials we use today were originally developed to prevent young children from accessing the family supply of flavored aspirin. Despite today's pain medications being highly-addictive and nearly 80 times stronger than morphine, they are still being dispensed in these ineffective child-resistant vials. This needs to change.

HB 5857 is a true step in the direction of positive change for Michiganders. This legislation will modify an outdated law, make it tougher for youth and teens to pilfer and save lives.

I urge the members of the Health Policy Committee to join the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police in supporting this legislation to keep opioids out of the hands of Michigan children and teens. Vote in favor of HB 5857 today.

Respectfully,

*Dave Hiller*

Dave Hiller, Executive Director of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police